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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA

National Vocational Training
(Supplementary Assistance) (GAM/74/014)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979
Starting date of project activities:	September 1977 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	April 1981
To be executed by:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agency:	President's Office
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$454 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Unemployment is high in the Gambia whilst at the same time there is an acute shortage of skilled craftsmen. Employment and manpower surveys show that there is an increasingly urgent and growing demand for employment-oriented skill-training programmes aimed at satisfying the manpower requirements in both the public and private sectors. Moreover, a recent training survey revealed the almost complete absence of artisan skill training in rural areas and identified a priority need for training in the areas of construction, metal working, auto-mechanics, handicrafts and for women's programmes.

2. In 1975 the Government requested UNDP/ILO assistance towards the creation of a National Vocational Training Programme. This request was made in anticipation of the completion by 1978 of the new Technical Institute, which is to be financed from a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)/International Development Association. Although the objectives of the first part of the UNDP/ILO project have been achieved, the new Technical Institute will not be ready before the end of 1980.

3. As a result, the Government requested further UNDP/ILO assistance for a bridging operation which would facilitate the implementation of the National Urban and Rural

*In accordance with General Assembly Resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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Vocational Training Programmes and the commencement of occupational training in priority areas of both the private and public sectors. The development objective, to which the present assistance is related, is, therefore, to assist the Government in its efforts to develop the human resources of the nation in line with the development needs of the economy so as to ensure the fullest possible participation in and contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Gambia's First Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (1975/76-1979/80). The duration of the project will be extended by 24 months.

4. The project is part of a wider co-ordinated programme of related efforts undertaken inter alia within the framework of the on-going Community Development and Functional Literacy Programmes, the World Bank Education Project, the Rural Development Programme financed by the International Development Association/Overseas Development Ministry/ Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the UNDP/ILO assisted project, Indigenous Business Advisory Scheme (GAM/74/013) 1/, and the UNFPA project aimed at the establishment of a national commission for women and development and women's bureau.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The immediate objective of the project is to strengthen the capability of the National Vocational Training Board to formulate and implement policies and guidelines for the application of the National Vocational Training Programme. During the extended period the project will inter alia establish a National Vocational Training Directorate as a Secretariat and Executive Organ of the Board, introduce a Skill Testing and Certification Programme, introduce skill upgrading courses, implement a pilot Rural Vocational Training Programme, and improve training facilities at two existing Vocational Training Centres.

III. Inputs

6. Under the assistance now approved UNDP will, through the Executing Agency, provide the services of a chief technical adviser, an in-plant training and skill testing adviser, and a rural vocational training adviser. In addition, UNDP will finance a limited number of fellowships for national counterpart staff and will provide the project with expendable and non-expendable tools and equipment for training purposes.

7. The Government inputs to this project will include the provision of the national staff, land, buildings, and tools and equipment.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $		Present approval $	Total Approved $
Personnel	129 746		415 472	545 218
Training	19 972	1	11 028	31 000
Equipment	23 500		23 800	47 300
Miscellaneous	2 509		4 000	6 509
	175 727		454 300	630 027

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,451,900 in kind.

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